

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 5 and 9 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as follows

(see the accompanying "marked up" version):

5. (Amended) A method for the manufacture of a copper microalloy

← 2 comprising:

- 50  
D'
- (a) mixing a copper alloy containing S, Se, As, Sb, Bi, Sn, Zn, Ni, Fe, Ag or Te impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm, with lead to yield a microalloy having a final concentration of at least 200 weight ppm of lead, wherein the copper alloy contains Zn, Fe, Ni, Sn, and Ag impurities; and
  - (b) casting the microalloy.

9. (Amended) A method for the manufacture of a copper microalloy

← 3 containing lead, comprising:

- 50  
D'
- (a) mixing a copper alloy containing (1) S, Se, As, Sb, Bi, Sn, Zn, Ni, Fe, Ag, or Te impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm and (2) less than 80 weight ppm of the impurities Zn, Ag, Cd, Sb, Ni, Fe, Bi, Sn and S with lead to yield a microalloy having at least 200 weight ppm of lead,

wherein the copper alloy contains Zn, Fe, Ni, Sn, and Ag impurities;

(b) casting the microalloy from step (a); and

(c) heating the microalloy from step (b) at 550-650° C for 5-600 seconds to decrease its half-softening temperature, annealing temperature, and recrystallization temperature to below 200° C.

C3

Add claims 15-22 reading as follows:

15. A method for the manufacture of a copper microalloy comprising:

- (a) mixing a copper alloy consisting essentially of copper and one or more of S, Se, As, Sb, Bi, Sn, Zn, Ni, Fe, Ag and Te impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm, with lead to yield a microalloy having a final concentration of at least 200 weight ppm of lead, wherein the copper alloy contains Zn, Fe, Ni, Sn, and Ag impurities; and
- (b) casting the microalloy.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the microalloy is cast by batch casting, semi-continuous casting or continuous casting.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the microalloy has a lead content of more than 300 weight ppm.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the microalloy has a lead content of more than 350 weight ppm.

19. A method for the manufacture of a copper microalloy comprising:

- 200
- (a) mixing a copper alloy consisting of copper and one or more of S, Se, As, Sb, Bi, Sn, Zn, Ni, Fe, Ag and Te impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm, with lead to yield a microalloy having a final concentration of at least 200 weight ppm of lead, wherein the copper alloy contains Zn, Fe, Ni, Sn, and Ag impurities; and
- (b) casting the microalloy.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the microalloy is cast by batch casting, semi-continuous casting or continuous casting.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the microalloy has a lead content of more than 300 weight ppm.